

## **UPDATE ON JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **HOUSE 4321: AN ACT RELATING TO PRIVATE ATTORNEYS PROVIDING PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES**

**For those not able to attend the hearing on the compensation bill yesterday, I wanted to send along a quick update on the result. With approximately 400-450 attorneys in attendance, the Judiciary Committee heard powerful and dramatic testimony from a wide-range of excellent speakers. Before all the testimony was complete, the Committee stopped to vote the bill out of committee FAVORABLY, and send it to the House Ways and Means Committee, which will most likely consider the bill in context with their FY'05 budget deliberations. HW&M will NOT hold a second hearing.**

**The following is a list of persons who testified at the hearing, all testifying in favor of the bill.**

- **Legislators: Sen. Bruce Tarr, Reps. Ed Connolly, Matthew Patrick, Brad Hill, Mark Howland, John Scibak, Pat Haddad, Jim Fagan, James Eldridge, Pat Jehlen, Brian Golden, Mike Festa and chief sponsor Brian Knuuttila**
- **Chief Justices: Mulligan (Trial Ct), DeVecchio (Superior Ct), Zoll (District Ct), Dunphy (Probate Ct) and Johnson (BMC); Juvenile Ct Chief Justice Martha Grace was out of state but filed a statement in support of the bill as well.**
- **William Leahy, CPCS Chief Counsel**
- **Bar Leaders: Rich Van Nostrand (MBA), Renee Landers (BBA), Charlie McGinty (MACDL), Paul Machado, Michelle Rioux and Lynn Whitney (Bristol Cnty Bar), Martin Kane (Middlesex Cnty Bar), Michael Erlich (Worcester Cnty Bar), Michael Talty (Greater Lowell Bar), Phyllis Field (Norfolk Cnty Bar), Randy Gioia (Suffolk Lawyers for Justice) and Judith Lindahl (Suffolk County)**
- **Attorneys James Krasnool, Tom Workman, Mark Hare and Glen Herlihy**
- **Attorney Rosemary Scappicio with her wrongfully convicted client Sean Drumgold**

**Suggested next steps:**

- **Thank your legislator if he/she testified or signed on as a co-sponsor and ask them what you should do next to move the bill along; co-sponsors available at <http://www.bristolpcs.org/H4321sponsor.html>**
- **If your legislator is not yet supportive, call to update them on the bill status and ask them to now support the bill <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm>**
- **Contact House Ways and Means committee members and ask them to support the bill <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/comm/h34.htm>**

**Thanks and congratulations to all involved in making this a productive hearing: all of the individuals who helped to organize the presentations at the hearing, especially Tom Workman, Mark Hare, Deb Butler, Glen Herlihy and Randy Gioia who worked with Rep. Knuuttila on much of the hearing strategy; all of the attorneys who were able to attend the hearing (approximately 400-450), including those who coordinated buses to make the trip to Boston; all who testified as well as those who had planned on testifying but didn't have to because of the early favorable vote; and, all those who were unable to attend but who contacted the committee members and their own legislators via phone, mail and email.**